

THE MAN WHO HOUNDED BONI

How the Greatest of Curiosity Dealers Gained Name and Fame.

Not one of Count Boni de Castellane's creditors has made such adequate revelations of the little nobleman's methods of accumulating debts as Asher Wertheimer of London, who was so charmed with the appearance of the count and countess that he permitted them to take to Paris art treasures to the value of \$337,000 without security. The story became known in London through Mr. Wertheimer's agent, and the trustees of the estate set against the countess in New York. It is one of the curiosities of the countess's life that she sold to Mr. Wertheimer that which she had given to him for which he had never paid. It is a counter allegation never paid. It is a counter allegation never paid. It is a counter allegation never paid.

moth-eaten treasures to the keen-eyed dealer. The works of the great masters, the pictures, the Reissner furniture, the sculpture, the thousand and one decorative objects of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries—French, Italian, German—had, in the mass, found secure resting places in the hands of great collectors or museums. Asher Wertheimer had to strike out a new line, and he did it. The millionaires of all countries took up the curiosity-buying craze. The Rothschilds, who had always been accumulating treasures from father to son, bought French sixteenth century decorative art and furniture, together with English eighteenth century portraits, into fashion. The combination was first adopted with conspicuous success by the late Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild at Waddesdon manor, the glorious palace of art and luxury he

The window of his shop in Bond street displays nothing but a high legend, "Dealer in Works of Art." The shop is a rendezvous of a morning for smart people. Scarcely a day passes that Alfred Rothschild's brougham does not stand outside for an hour. Lord and Lady de Grey, Lord Carnarvon, Lord Rothschild, Lord Burton, the Duke of Marlborough and other wealthy customers rarely pass Mr. Wertheimer's without going in to have a chat about curiosities. He has a perfect genius for fulfilling difficult commissions. A wealthy client sees in some great house a picture or a piece of furniture that would suit a vacant place in one of his rooms. Asher Wertheimer is informed, and forthwith he proceeds to lay his plans to induce the owner to part with the desired object. There was recently for sale one of the most perfect specimens of English thirteenth century silver—an embossed cup—in existence. Many collectors bid for it, but Mr. Wertheimer outbid them all, paid \$20,000 for the cup and presented it to the British museum. Still more recently he paid \$10,000 for a splendid marble bust of Cromwell by Bernini. This he presented to the house of commons, and it stands in one of the public lobbies—one of the few sculptures of any artistic value that the palace of St. Stephen's contains. Mr. Wertheimer was the intermediary through whom the priceless Dutch pic-

WHERE RUHLIN IS TRAINING.



This picture presents a view of the training quarters occupied by Ruhlin while preparing for his contest with Jeffries. It is the center of attraction for a large number of sporting men who are eager to get a line on the present condition of the champion that will guide them when they are placing their money on the winner they pick.

JEFFRIES, THE WORLD'S CHAMPION.



Here is a striking picture of the world's champion showing just how the big fighter looks when delivering his favorite blow. The champion's friends point with confidence to his splendid condition. They claim his wind is good, his eyes keen and piercing, his legs finer drawn than ever and his thighs narrowed down to their least circumference. They see under these circumstances nothing but defeat for Ruhlin.

to pose as a connoisseur of works of art and a rival to the Rothschilds, the Zels, the Bases and the Guineesses. In the curiosity-buying world it was inevitable that he should seek the services of Asher Wertheimer, of Old Bond street. There are two Wertheimer brothers—Asher and Charles. They were left joint proprietors of the curiosity-dealing business founded in the '60s in Bond street by their father, old Charles Wertheimer, but after a few years of partnership they separated. Asher Wertheimer retained the original shop, while Charles resides in a mansion in North street, Park Lane, where several stately rooms are given over to the display of works of art. His fable is to show artistic objects among suitable surroundings—in their habit as they should live. Both are extremely clever in their business and both have made large fortunes. Asher, however, is a millionaire in sterling, while the younger brother, Charles, now about 50, has scarcely attained that grand pre-eminence.

erected for himself on an eminence that commands the Vale of Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire. The interiors of French chateaux—paneling, tapestry, ceiling, fireplaces, doors—were fitted to the rooms of the beautiful reproduction of the famous palace of Chenonceaux which Baron Ferdinand built for himself. His chief agent in securing these things, together with a priceless collection of Reynolds, Romneys and Gainsboroughs, was Asher Wertheimer. This was the foundation of the great dealer's fame and fortune.

It is said, though doubtless an exaggeration, that Baron Ferdinand spent close upon \$250,000 on Waddesdon in ten years, and a great part of this sum went through Mr. Wertheimer's hands. But not only that. The decorative style so successfully adapted to Waddesdon was not only imitated by the other members of the Rothschild family here and on the continent, but genuine old French decorative furniture and English eighteenth century portraits became the fashion.

Mr. Wertheimer is the greatest living expert on these objects, and he commands the curiosity market, virtually in all its branches, through his being ready to find a purchaser at a moment's notice for any really good article of any age or period.

He knows at this moment where every eighteenth century portrait of the slightest value or importance is.

It is the same with all the fine French pictures of the same period—the Bouchers, the Fragonards, the Watteaus—the Reissner furniture, the tables, the commodes, the china and the exquisitely modeled wall lights, for all of which the craze among the wealthy is growing, and with it Mr. Wertheimer's vast fortune and his power.

tures of the Van Six collection were purchased by some members of the Rothschild family seven or eight years ago, at an average price, it is said, of \$50,000 apiece.

Asher Wertheimer has been making good the ravages of time and impetuosity among the pictures and decorative objects at Blenheim palace by the aid of the Vanderbilt millions. He has had a full discretionary commission to buy first class Gainsboroughs, Reynolds and Romneys, as well as French sixteenth century furniture, for Alfred Beit for his new palace in Park Lane, which sent up the value of these objects 20 per cent at a bound; the Neumanns, the Wertheimers, the J. B.

Robinsons and even Mr. Rhodes have been among his clients. Everyone, in fact, who makes millions and wants to establish a "smart" house must go to Asher Wertheimer to obtain the real cachet of decorative distinction.

He is about 65 years of age squarely built, with a closely-cropped iron gray beard and mustache, a nose large and heavy, a mobile mouth and a pair of small but intensely keen brown eyes. His manner is pleasant, apparently confident, but quick and short, as would be expected in a man of such large and responsible interests.

His London house is at Connaught place, where he was a next-door neighbor of Lord Randolph Churchill. He has another house at Brighton, his sons

RUHLIN, WHO IS AFTER THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP.



Of course this will not be a prize-fight—merely an innocent little sparring exhibition. So emphatically declares the management of the Saengerfest club. They are very indignant that Gov. Nash should refuse to allow the contest to come off in his State and at his threat to call out the State militia to prevent the bout. This photograph of the fighters at close quarters will convey an impression of how innocent and lamblike this contest will be.

PRESIDENTS OF FOUR BIG BASEBALL LEAGUES.

The Heads of the Rival Associations Think There are Benefits in Competition and Encouraging Prospects for Next Season.



Here are the latest photographs of the presidents of the four large baseball leagues this country now boasts. Baseball enthusiasts may sometimes think that in this quarter of leagues where one only seems necessary, presidents Watkins, Johnson, Powers and Young, however, are confident that the interest and enthusiasm which existed during the eighties.

HEART TREATMENT FREE

To Each Reader, Franklin Miles, M. D., LL. B., the Chicago Heart Specialist, Will Send \$2.50 Worth of His New Individual Treatment Free.

That Dr. Miles is one of the most successful and reliable of specialists is proven by hundreds of testimonials from well known people. One patient cured after failure of eleven Grand Rapids physicians, another after having been given up by six or seven Chicago physicians, another after nine of the leading doctors in New York City, Philadelphia and Chicago failed.

A thousand highly flattering testimonials as to Dr. Miles' moral character and unusual skill from Bishops, Physicians, Clergymen, Mayors, Farmers, etc., will be sent upon request. For years an expert corps of trained assistants have aided him in his investigations. Every State, Territory, Canada and Mexico, as well as South America, Africa and New Zealand, are represented among his thousands of patients.

The late Prof. J. S. Jewell, M. D., advised Dr. Miles to "by all means publish your surprising results." Prof. J. P. Ross, M.D., President of Rush Medical College, wrote in 1874: "Dr. Miles has taken two courses of my private instruction in diseases of the heart." Col. N. G. Parker, Ex-Treasurer of South Carolina, says: "I believe Dr. Miles to be an attentive and skillful physician in a field which requires the best qualities of head and heart." Col. A. M. Tucker, late General Manager of N. Y. L. E. & W. system of railways, says: "Dr. Miles' success as a physician has been phenomenal."

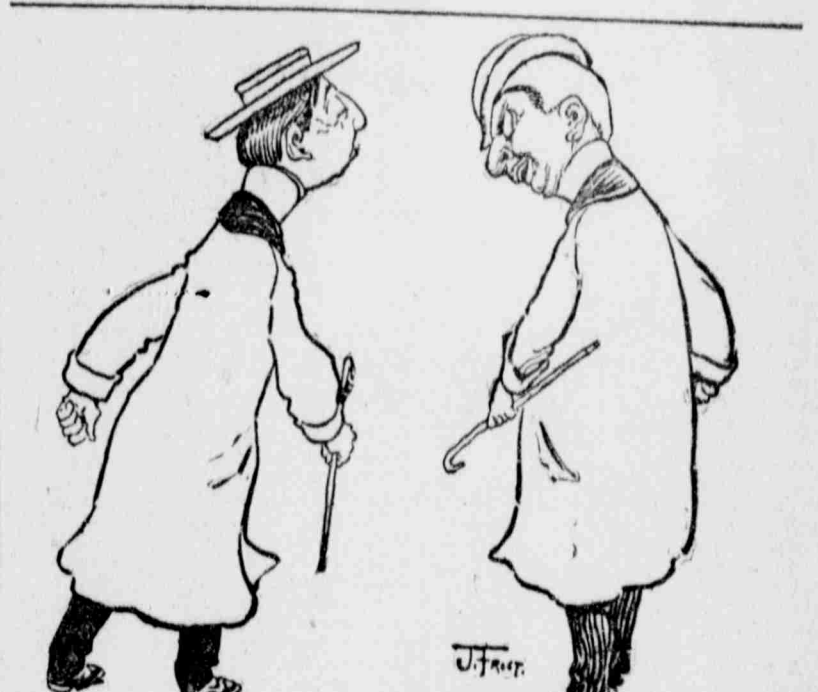
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gun from a shoulder to carry arms, and then to present arms, in accordance with the manual of those days. After General Lee had passed a few steps I heard him say to Mr. Custis: "Do you know who that young man is walking extra tours for violation of regulations?" "No," quickly responded Mr. Custis, "he is very polite, though, isn't he?"—Washington Star.



UP-TO-DATE METHODS. Owner—Here! What are you doing in my safe? Burglar—I just wanted to learn something about your financial standing for our new credit book. Have a card!



NOT SO PLENTIFUL, AFTER ALL. Whips—That political orator said the other night that there were thirty million kings in this country. Chippies—I wonder if he ever opened a jackpot with a pair of them and stood three raises before the draw.



Cousin Tom—Well, Uncle John, did you witness the game from the grand stand? Uncle John Bleacher—Waal, I guess that wer about th' size of it. I had ter stand for two hours.



A VIVID DREAM. Weary Walker—I dreamed last night dat I was chewin' de rag wid a farmer. Farmer—What of it? Weary Walker—Well, I woke up an' found I had chawed up half of a horse blanket.



HYPNOTIC. Prof. Bum—in a moment I'll have the lion in a hypnotic trance.



Lion—What did you say about a trance?